What is claimed is:

1. A method for optimizing execution of structured query language statements, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining if a user-defined function referenced by an original structured query language statement can be merged into the original structured query language statement; and

(b) if the user-defined function can be merged, then generating a composite structured query language statement by merging the user-defined function into the original structured query language statement.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(c) identifying the user-defined function referenced by the original structured query language statement.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(c) executing the composite structured query language statement instead of the original structured query language statement.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b) for a set of structured query language statements;

(d) determining a number of references to the user-defined function within the set; and

(e) performing step (b) if the number of references to the user-defined function exceeds a predetermined threshold.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(c) identifying a current version of the user-defined function referenced in the original structured query language statement; and

(d) using the current version when performing the conditional step of generating the composite structured language statement.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(c) executing the original structured query language statement if the user-defined function cannot be merged; and

(d) calling the user-defined function referenced in the original structured query language statement.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further includes the step of:

checking whether the composite structured query language statement exceeds a system limitation.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the system limitation is that of a maximum size for a valid structured query language statement.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(c) receiving input related to disabling the generating of the composite structured query language statement; and

(d) based on the received input, not generating the composite structured query language statement even if the user-defined function can be merged into the original structured query language statement.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating further includes the steps of:

parsing the user-defined function into one or more actions;

testing each of the one or more actions to determine if that action can be merged; and

based on the testing, rewriting the user-defined function into the composite structured query language statement.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of testing further includes the step of:

determining if each action is one of a conditional action, an embedded query, and a built-in function.

12. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled with the at least one processor; and

a program code residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, the program code configured to:

determine if a user-defined function referenced by an original structured query language statement can be merged into the original structured query language statement; and

if the user-defined function can be merged, then generate a composite structured query language statement by merging the user-defined function into the original structured query language statement.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the program code is further configured to:

identify the user-defined function referenced by the original structured query language statement.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the program code is further configured to:

execute the composite structured query language statement instead of the original structured query language statement.

15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the program code is further configured to:

identify a current version of the user-defined function referenced in the original structured query language statement; and

use the current version when performing the conditional step of generating the composite structured language statement.

16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the program code is further configured to:

execute the original structured query language statement if the user-defined function cannot be merged; and

call the user-defined function referenced in the original structured query language statement.

17. A program product, comprising:

program code configured upon execution thereof to:

determine if a user-defined function referenced by an original structured query language statement can be merged into the original structured query language statement; and

if the user-defined function can be merged, then generate a composite structured query language statement by merging the user-defined function into the original structured query language statement; and

a signal bearing medium bearing the program code.